

REMARKS

Independent claims 28 and 48 are directed to a suction tube for drawing the powder from a blister. The tube has an elongate body, an inlet for entering the blister, an outlet providing a mouthpiece, and an inhalation channel between the inlet and the outlet through which powder is in use drawn on inhalation by a user. The inlet section has a cutting blade with a cutting edge for making a cut in the covering film of the blister and a ram blade including a bearing surface for bearing on the covering film of the blister and pushing it into the cavity of the blister. The cutting blade extends across the inlet. (See, e.g., cutting blade 127 and ram blades 129, 131 cutting the covering film and pushing it into the cavity in Fig. 11.) Claims 28 and 48 also recite that the inhalation channel extends axially rearward of the cutting edge of the cutting blade.

New independent claim 54 is similar in scope to original claim 28, except that it recites the combination of a suction tube and blisters with powder, and new independent claim 55 is similar in scope to original claim 48 except that it recites an inhaler with a suction tube and blisters containing powder.

Claims 28-48, 54 and 55 stand rejected as anticipated by WO 96/09085 ("the '085") and as obvious in view of WO 97/40876 ("the 876") in view of the '085

With respect to the '085, it is asserted in the office action:

AS seen in FIGS 10 and 11A in particular the inlet section includes a cutting assembly having at least one cutting blade and at least one ram blade (150). The cutting blade being one half of the blades structure (144). The half is made up of opposing triangular sections that taper to a point and defined a blade that traverses the inlet. See, e.g., p. 38, lines 27 through p. 29, line 2. The RAM blade (150) includes a bearing surface that is suitable for pushing the covering film of a blister into the cavity of the blister. See, e.g., 12A-12C. The ram blade (150) is smaller than the cutting blade and therefore, the cutting blade extends axially forward of the bearing surface of the ram blade (150). See, e.g., FIGS 12A-12C. The ram blade (150) is smaller than the cutting blade and therefore, the cutting blade extends axially forward of the bearing surface of the ram blade (150). See, e.g., FIGS 12a-12c.

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Page : 9 of 9

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he function of the penetrating structure (150) is described as both piercing the receptacle lid and simultaneously providing fluidization air inlet paths. The ram blade of the present invention includes a bearing surface suitable for bearing on the covering film of the blister and widening said cut in the covering film by pushing the covering film into the cavity of the blister.

We submit that neither one of these documents discloses a cutting assembly comprising at least one cutting blade that extends across the inlet, and at least one ram blade wherein the ram blade includes a bearing surface suitable for bearing on the covering film into the cavity of the blister. Neither of the prior art documents discloses this combination of features nor do the documents mention the advantages these features provide. Therefore, the skilled person would not be motivated to provide such an arrangement.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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